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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 /075 W
----------200624Z 097404 /11
O P 191518Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5692
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1287

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1392

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

MAPUTO FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY

GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, UK, RH
SUBJ: ZAMBIA-UK RELATIONS

REF: GABORONE 1129

SUMMARY. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES HAS SHARED WITH ME
IMPRESSIONS OF HIS MEETING MAY 19 WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA.
KAUNDA SEEMED RELAXED AND NO LONGER IRRITATED BY OWEN LETTER;
HE ASSURED MILES OF HIS SUPPORT FOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP.
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MILES DID NOT TALK ABOUT DANGERS OF SMITH BEING PROVOKED INTO
ESCALATING WAR (REFTEL). IF LOCAL SITUATION PERMITS, KAUNDA
WILL GO TO COMMONWEALTH MEETING. END SUMMARY."

1. HIGH COMMISSIONER MET WITH KAUNDA AT 0730 MAY 19; HE FOUND
KAUNDA IN A RELAXED CONFIDENT MOOD. MILES EXPLAINED TO KAUNDA
THAT OWEN LETTER HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS

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AND OUT OF FRIENDSHIP. KAUNDA SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING IRRITATION OVER THE LETTER. MILES GAVE KAUNDA ORALLY BRITISH ESTIMATE OF RHODESIAN MILITARY INTENTIONS AS THEY RELATED TO ZAMBIA, EXPLAINING THAT BRITISH HAD NO INDICATIONS OF BUILDUP AT THIS TIME THAT WOULD REPRESENT AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO ZAMBIA. KAUNDA APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE BRITISH ASSESSMENT, BUT DID SAY HE WAS GRAVELY CONCERNED BY A LAND MINE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN THE GWEMBE AREA NORTH OF LAKE KARIBA IN WHICH FOUR ZAMBIANS WERE KILLED. KAUNDA MADE NO MENTION OF THE CROSS BORDER EXCHANGE OF FIRE MAY 18 BETWEEN RHODESIAN AND ZAMBIAN FORCES IN THE LIVINGSTONE AREA.

2. KAUNDA ASSURED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF HIS SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND WISHED GRAHAM GOOD LUCK. HE SAID IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTED HE WOULD ATTEND THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

3. HIGH COMMISSIONER COMMENTED IN HIS REPORT THAT HE BE-
LIEVES KAUNDA HAS NOW COOLED DOWN AFTER HIS INITIAL REACTION TO THE OWEN LETTER AND NO LASTING HARM HAS BEEN DONE TO ZAMBIA-UK RELATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT KAUNDA HAD PLAYED UP THE INCIDENT TO BRING THE SMITH THREAT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD ON THE EVE OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE. HE POINTED OUT TO LONDON THAT AFTER HAVING ASSURED KAUNDA THAT BRITISH EVIDENCE DID NOT INDICATE A SIGNIFICANT RHODESIAN BUILDUP DIRECTED AGAINST ZAMBIA, UK MUST, TO PROTECT ITSELF, BE PREPARED IN THE FUTURE TO GET RAPIDLY TO KAUNDA ANY EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.

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4. MILES TOLD ME HE DID NOT TALK TO KAUNDA ABOUT THE DANGER OF PROVOKING THE RHODESIANS INTO ESCALATING THE FIGHTING AND THREAT THIS WOULD REPRESENT TO NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL). HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID HE HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM LONDON TO BACK OFF FROM THAT VOLATILE ISSUE.

COMMENT: KAUNDA'S ENCOURAGEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS WHEN TALKING WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO WHAT HE TOLD THREE VISITING AMERICAN EDITORS ON MAY 18. SPEAKING TO THAT AUDIENCE, HE SAID THE TIME FOR TALKS WAS PAST. THE QUESTION OF RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE RESOLVED BY FORCE OF ARMS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A BLOOD BATH, AND A BLOODY VICTORY COULD BE EXPECTED WITHIN SIX MONTHS. THIS DUAL APPROACH IS NOT NEW. THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE KAUNDA ON RHODESIA RE FREQUENTLY MILES APART. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT KAUNDA'S IRRITATION OVER THE OWEN LETTER HAS LESSENED, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT AS A RESULT OF THE LETTER HE WILL REGARD ALL BRITISH ACTIONS IN THE RHODESIAN EQUATION WITH HEIGHTNED SUSPICION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GABORONE 1129
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2455793
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIA-UK RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, UK, RH, MZ, (KAUNDA, KENNETH), (MILES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad375e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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